

City of Newburgh

Press Release

83 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550
(845) 569-7354 – (845) 569-7370

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Holiday Extravaganza Is Huge Success



Councilwoman Mary Ann Dickinson, Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo, who has coordinated City Christmas celebrations for more than 20 years, Santa, and Councilwoman-elect Christine Bello

The first City of Newburgh Holiday Extravaganza brought Santa, gifts, and holiday cheer to more than 1000 youngsters and their families on December 14. This year, for the first time, events were planned at six different sites, including the foot of Broadway, where the traditional tree lighting was held. At 6 p.m., trees were lit at each of the sites.

The Holiday Extravaganza was planned in the spirit of National Night Out, where events are held in various neighborhoods to be within walking distance for residents. Events kicked off at 5 p.m. at the City of Newburgh Activity Center, Downing Park, Youth Advocate Program at 280 Broadway, the Glenn E. Hines Boys & Girls Club, and WellCare.



Santa Arrives at City Activity Center

About 200 people attended the Broadway Tree Lighting where the Salvation Army Band provided Christmas music, and several elves helped Santa and Mrs. Claus (Councilwoman Regina Angelo) distribute toys to the youngsters. Following the tree lighting, a party with hot chocolate and cookies was held at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum.

"We are so grateful to everyone who made the Broadway tree lighting a success," said Councilwoman Angelo. "I would especially like to

thank Deputy Superintendent of Public Works George Garrison and his dedicated crew, the Police Department, the Karpeles Museum, the Salvation Army, and Michael Bigg, Jr. of Quality Towing & Autobody for helping to make this event memorable." She added, "We are already looking for next year's tree, preferably a blue spruce."

The City Activity Center drew around 600 youngsters who lined up to receive gifts from Santa, courtesy of Affinity Health Plan and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Most of the sites reportedly drew between 50 and 100 participants; Glenn Hines Boys & Girls Club had close to 200.

Mayor Nicholas Valentine commented, "I am very pleased that the expansion of our holiday celebrations was so successful. This was a true extension of the spirit of National Night Out, which allows our residents to enjoy fun family activities close to home."